

Statement-II

(c) The details about Export of Artificial silk and foreign exchange earned are as under :

	Quantity—Tonnes Value—Lakhs/Rs.	
	1996-97 (April-January)	1995-96
1. Fibre and Yarn		
Oty.	3747	7069
Value	5545	10764

2075.50 Tons of Rayon Filament Fabrics valued at US \$ 16.64 million was exported during 1996-97 (April-January).

(d) The Govt. have been various steps such as liberalisation of industrial licensing policy, rationalisation of fiscal duty structure, changes in EXIMP Policy, etc. with a view to increasing the production and export of textile items including artificial silk.

Paper Mills

4369.DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of new paper mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be finalised; and

(d) the names of the mills which manufacture computer papers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No proposal is pending with the Government for grant of Industrial Licence for setting up of new paper mills in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The details of the mills manufacturing computer paper in the country are not maintained separately.

Export and Production of TEA and Coffee

4370.SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of coffee and tea in the country at present separately;

(b) whether the export of coffee and tea has declined during 1996-97;

(c) whether the Government have adopted some new measures to increase the export of coffee and tea;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when these new measures are proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The estimated production of coffee is 2.05 lakh tonnes during 1996-97 season (July-June) and estimated production of tea during April 1996-March 1997 period is 780.31 million Kgs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Steps taken to increase exports by the concerned BOARDS include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions abroad. Conducting publicity campaigns, market surveys, holding buyer seller meets, promoting brands, etc. In respect of exports of tea to Russia under the debt repayment route, a proposal for exports on consignment basis has been worked out recently in consultation with Reserve Bank of India.

Misuse of Exim Policy by Exporters

4371.SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have initiated any action against the exporters for breach of conditions while availing themselves of the benefits under the Export-Import Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of exporters who have been found guilty during each of the last three years;

(d) the number of exporters who have rectified the false claims during each of the last three years;

(e) the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action is initiated under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Foreign Trade (Regulation) Rules, 1993 for violation of the export import policy and condition of licence as also for contravention of the provisions of the prescribed procedure. The penalties imposed under the provisions of

the Act are fiscal penalty, suspension/cancellation of licence or suspension/cancellation of importer-exporter code number.

(c) Contravention for which exporters have been found guilty range from minor cases to major cases and also pertains to violation of the conditions of several schemes, such as, advance licences, EPCG licences, EPZ/EDU schemes and Pass Book Schemes etc. Information regarding total number of exporters who have been found guilty during each of the last three years can be quantified after all the relevant records of Port Offices are scrutinised and information compiled.

(d) There is no specific provision under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 for rectification of false claims. However, default in export obligation can be regularised under the provisions of para 128 of the Hand Book of Procedure, 1992-97 (Vol.I).

In respect of Value Based Advance Licences (VABAL), the Ministry of Finance have recently announced a scheme providing for reversal of MODVAT availed by manufacturer exporters and supporting manufacturers of merchant exporters in contravention of VABAL Scheme with 20% interest per annum for the period the MODVAT amount was retained by them by 31-1-97.

(e) Action would be taken under the Customs Act and other relevant laws against the manufacturers exporters and merchant exporters having declared the names of supporting manufacturers at the time of obtaining advance licence/DEEC who failed to reverse the MODVAT amount and interest by 31-1-97 as set out under the Scheme.

Financial Assistance to West Bengal

4372. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of financial assistance given by public sector financial institutions like Life Insurance Corporation of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to West Bengal during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the financial assistance is proportionately very low as compared to other States; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 204.45 crores, Rs. 208.42 crores and

Rs. 244.89 crores was invested by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in West Bengal during the financial years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. LIC made higher investment than in West Bengal only in five States of the financial years 1993-94 and 1994-95 and seven States in 1995-96. The amount invested varies from State to State depending upon the investment opportunities available in that particular State and is also guided by the provisions of modified section 27A of Insurance Act, 1938 which lays down the investment pattern for the corporation. The information in respect of other Financial Institutions (FIs) is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Banking Credit Card

4373. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHARJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bank credit card holders in the country at present;

(b) the share of public sector banks in it;

(c) whether public sector banks are lagging behind in this growing market;

(d) if so the details thereof, and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) According to data available with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) there are a total of 13,54,084 credit cards issued by Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Private Sector Banks and foreign banks in the country.

(b) Out of the total number of credit cards, the PSBs have issued 7,68,713 cards. The share of PSBs in the total number of cards issued in the country works out to 57% approx.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is for each bank to decide on credit card business on the basis of commercial considerations.

[English]

Circulation of Mutilated Notes

4374. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :